(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A new scheme to protect wildlife outside the Protected Area has been introduced, which extends funding support for:—

(i) Provision for Protection infrastructure and intelligence gathering;

(ii) Compensation to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts;

(iii) Development of Forensic facilities and Capacity Building;

(iv) Educational arrangements for wildlife personnel and application of mass media and training programmes for awareness.

Effect of Ozone depleting substances

1818. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted in regard to the effect of Ozone depleting substance like Chloro Fluorocarbons on the Ozone layer;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to protect the Ozone layer from indiscriminate use of Ozone depleting substance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scientific studies have proved that chlorine in chloro fluorocarbons is the cause of depeletion of the Ozone layer.

(c) India has ratified the Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone layer. A country programme has been prepared for phasing out the Ozone depleting substances as per the control schedules specified in the Montreal Protocol under the Convention and the implementation process is on.

Dependence of rural life on forests

†1819. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the needs of rural life are met from forests;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that works relating to construction of dams, roads and laying of electric lines in States have been hampered due to complexity of Provisions of Forests (Conservations) Act, 1980 and the compulsion of permission from Government; and

(c) the number of people who have got temporary lease of agriculture land and by when they would be provided the lease of land-owner?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Villages adjoining forest areas are substantially dependent upon the forests for meeting their needs for fodder, fuelwood and small timber.

(b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only regulates indiscriminate and unnecessary diversion of forest land. The Act also aims at sustained supply of forest usufructs to local communities and safeguarding reduction in the extent of natural forests. Every proposal requiring forest land for non-forestry purposes is considered on merit and in case the diversion is necessary and unavoidable, permission is accorded with suitable conditions keeping due regard to environmental security of the area. Since 1980, under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, more than 7600 proposals for development and other facilities related works involving about 5.30 lakh hectare forest land has been approved by the Ministry.

(c) Guidelines issued under the Act stipulate that forest land should not be diverted for non-site specific activities like agriculture. However, where the temporary leases of forest land for agriculture purpose have been given prior to coming in force of the Act, proposals of the State Governments are considered by the Government under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Financial assistance for Ranthambhor Tiger Project

†1820. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Ranthambhor Tiger

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.